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Air Transport Association ata OF AMERICA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AIRLINE PASSENGER TRAFFIC DOWN 1.7 PERCENT IN MARCH, UP 0.6% IN FIRST QUARTER

Washington, D.C., April 17, 1989 -- Airline passenger traffic dropped 1.7 percent in March, and was up 0.6 percent for the first quarter of 1989, the Air Transport Association reported today.

In domestic service, traffic declined 4.6 percent in March. Available seat miles dropped 6.1 percent. Passengers decreased 5.6 percent to 34.1 million, while the load factor was 65.2 percent compared to 64.2 percent for March, 1988.

For the first quarter of 1989, domestic traffic fell 2.2 percent, available seat miles were down 1.9 percent, the number of passengers declined to 91.8 million, and the load factor was 58.9 percent compared to 59.0 percent for the same period last year.

In international service, traffic was up 10.8 percent in March. Available seat miles rose 11.4 percent. Passengers increased 3.3 percent to 2.7 million, and the load factor was 65.5 percent, down from 65.9 percent in March, 1988.

For the first quarter, international traffic gained 12.1 percent. Available seat miles increased 11.9 percent, and passengers increased 7.5 percent to 7.8 million. The load factor was 61.7 percent compared to 61.6 percent last year.

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PRELIMINARY PASSENGER TRAFFIC STATISTICS
U.S. SCHEDULED AIRLINE INDUSTRY (1)

MARCH 1989 - 1988

	MARCH			YEAR TO DATE		
	1988	1989	PERCENT CHANGE	1988	1989	PERCENT CHANGE
DOMESTIC						
PASSENGER ENPLANEMENTS (000)	36,149	34,112	(5.6)	94,762	91,789	(3.1)
REVENUE PASSENGER MILES (000)	28,711,436	27,383,035	(4.6)	75,789,224	74,124,546	(2.2)
AVAILABLE SEAT MILES (000)	44,744,565	42,008,299	(6.1)	128,424,363	125,953,731	(1.9)
LOAD FACTOR (%)	64.2	65.2		59.0	58.9	
INTERNATIONAL						
PASSENGER ENPLANEMENTS (000)	2,662	2,749	3.3	7,285	7,832	7.5
REVENUE PASSENGER MILES (000)	6,615,220	7,331,406	10.8	18,130,858	20,332,452	12.1
AVAILABLE SEAT MILES (000)	10,042,404	11,190,956	11.4	29,452,952	32,964,102	11.9
LOAD FACTOR (%)	65.9	65.5		61.6	61.7	
TOTAL						
PASSENGER ENPLANEMENTS (000)	38,811	36,861	(5.0)	102,047	99,621	(2.4)
REVENUE PASSENGER MILES (000)	35,326,656	34,714,441	(1.7)	93,920,082	94,456,998	0.6
AVAILABLE SEAT MILES (000)	54,786,969	53,199,255	(2.9)	157,877,315	158,917,833	0.7
LOAD FACTOR (%)	64.5	65.3		59.5	59.4	

CARRIERS INCLUDED: AMERICAN, CONTINENTAL, DELTA, EASTERN, NORTHWEST, PAN AM, PIEDMONT, TRANS WORLD, UNITED, USAIR, ALASKA, ALOHA, BRANIFF, HAWAIIAN, MIDWAY, PSA, AND SOUTHWEST.

(1) Eastern 1988 numbers included
Eastern 1989 numbers not available